

receive serious consideration by the committees of jurisdiction and by the full House.

TRIBUTE TO TOM SOUTHALL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a man who has been an inspiration to hundreds of young men and a legend amongst his colleagues within his own profession. Mr. Speaker, I am talking about Tom Southall, Steamboat Springs High School basketball coach and a recent inductee to the Colorado High School Activities Association Hall of Fame.

Tom is known as one of the best coaches in Colorado, as the facts clearly attest. He is the all-time winningest coach in the history of Colorado. While Tom is known to be a great coach, he is also known for being a man of great character and imparts his knowledge to his players. A mark of a good coach is the ability to make his players better. While Tom certainly fulfills that role, he also makes his players better people and teaches them about what it means to do things the right way.

While being the winningest coach in the history of Colorado is more than impressive, Tom not only understands sports as a coach, but also was a great athlete in his day. He was a four-year letterman in football, basketball and track. He was on a state championship team in football as the star running back. In track, he was a three time state champion. Besides his athletic prowess, Tom was also an intelligent student, member of the student council and participated in the school band. Mr. Speaker, Tom Southall should be used as a role model of what being a good coach and doing things the right way is all about.

PRESIDENT ABDURRAHMAN
WAHID TAKES IMPORTANT
STEPS TO STRENGTHEN DEMOC-
RACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN DE-
MOCRACY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this past week His Excellency Abdurrahman Wahid, the newly elected President of Indonesia, paid a brief visit to Washington, where he met with President Clinton and other officials of our government.

This was an important visit, Mr. Speaker, because it reflected the desire to strengthen Indonesia's relations with the United States. President Wahid—both in private in conversations with President Clinton and publicly in statements to the press and to friends of Indonesia who welcomed him to Washington—affirmed Indonesia's desire, as he said “to make sure that we are still great friends of the United States.” I am pleased that President Clinton affirmed our friendship with Indonesia and emphasized our interest in a stable, prosperous, and democratic Indonesia.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reaffirm my own commitment to strengthening our nation's rela-

tions with Indonesia. Indonesia is the fourth largest nation in the world, and it is a country that has recently taken the first important steps in the direction of greater democracy. The Indonesian elections held last June were an important step forward, the first democratic elections in Indonesia in nearly half a century. The next important step in strengthening democracy was the action of the Indonesian parliament just three weeks ago in voting to elect Abdurrahman Wahid as President of the country.

Mr. Speaker, in the few short weeks since President Wahid has been in office he has taken a number of important steps to strengthen democracy in his country. There are still difficulties ahead, but he has started out on the right foot, and it is in our interest to support his efforts.

The President has announced an effort to fight corruption, which has been one of the serious and persistent problems that faced Indonesia under its previous authoritarian leaders. Questions have been raised about certain actions of three members of President Wahid's cabinet. The President has announced that if the Attorney General finds evidence of corruption, the ministers will be investigated, charged, and relieved of office. That kind of integrity and moral leadership is what is required, and I believe President Wahid has these qualities.

Mr. Speaker, President Wahid has also sought to establish civilian control over the military—an important democratic principle. The President appointed a civilian as his Minister of Defense, the first civilian to hold such a position. Democratic control of the military has been a serious matter of concern in Indonesia. The military has played an important role in the integration of Indonesia, but it has also acted outside the control of elected officials, as was particularly evident in the mishandling of the referendum in East Timor. Decades of the precedent of the military acting independently and abusing the human rights of Indonesians will be difficult to reverse overnight, but the direction taken by the President is clearly the right one.

The President also has indicated his intention to speed the return of East Timorese refugees to their home. It is estimated that some 180,000 refugees from East Timor remain in Indonesian-controlled western Timor, but they have been unable or unwilling to return because of fear for their lives. The President's intention to see the return of these refugees reflects his pragmatic and principled interest in resolving this difficult issue.

President Wahid has also taken steps in the foreign policy area that reflect his desire to involve Indonesia more positively in the world. He has indicated his intention to establish trade relations with the State of Israel. Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim nation, and such a decision reflects a serious interest to change past practice in the face of considerable opposition. President Wahid has the authority and credibility to make such a decision, since his is a highly respected Muslim religious leader.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in welcoming the enlightened leadership of Indonesia's new President. In the few short weeks that he has been in office, he has taken a number of important steps to strengthen democracy, to improve economic conditions, to restore the rule of law, and to deal

with the difficult problems of his country. President Wahid assumes the leadership of this important country with integrity and a commitment to democratic values that we here in the United States admire and share. We wish him well in the challenges he faces, and we should work with him in meeting them.

THE WORLD MUST NOT FORGET SIKH POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, India frequently boasts about its democratic institutions, so the world pays little attention to the abuses of human rights that go on there. Yet it has recently come out that there are thousands of political prisoners being held in “the world's largest democracy.”

These political prisoners are being held in illegal detention for their political opinions. Some have been held without charge or trial for 15 years. One known case is an 80-year-old man. Yes, India is holding an 80-year-old man in illegal detention for his political opinions.

What have these Sikhs done? They have spoken out for freedom for their people and an end to the violence against their people. They have spoken out against the repression and tyranny that have killed 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. In India, this is apparently a crime.

Other minority nations have also seen substantial numbers of their members taken as political prisoners by the democratic government of India. In addition, the Indian government has murdered over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947. Tens of thousands of people in Manipur, Assam, Tamil Nadu, and other areas have also died at the hands of the Indian government.

Mr. Speaker, why should the people of the United States support a government like this? The answer is that they shouldn't. Yet India remains one of the largest recipients of U.S. aid. That aid should be ended, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps then India will understand that it must respect human rights.

We should also make clear our strong support for the movement of self-determination for the minority peoples and nations of South Asia, such as the Sikh homeland of Punjab, Khalistan; the heavily-Muslim Kashmir; and Christian-majority Nagaland. Only by conducting a free and fair vote can real freedom come to the peoples and nations of South Asia.

I call on the President to press these important issues when he visits India next year. This is the only way to bring real stability, peace, freedom, and dignity to South Asia.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to our colleagues' attention news about our